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November 16, 1948

AIR MAIL

To: Dr. F. C. Craighead, In Charge, Forest Insect Investigations

From: R. L. Furniss, Entomologist, Portland Laboratory

Subject: Insect Control Needs in Oregon and Washington - Season of 1948 - 1949

All survey work for the 1948 season has been completed, except at Mount Rainier National Park where winter closed in when the mountain pine beetle survey in the park was about half completed. The survey of 1948 was the most comprehensive ever undertaken by the Portland station. It included comprehensive coverage of the ponderosa pine region, aerial reconnaissance of 11,500,000 timbered acres, and coverage of extensive areas in the Douglas-fir region.

Two control projects requiring special funds have been proposed for the spruce budworm - one of 100,000 acres known as the Eugene area, and one of 103,000 acres known as the Mt. Hood area. It is estimated that these combined projects will cost $406,000, a figure which includes administrative and technical supervision and the checking of results.

The basis for these recommended projects is contained in the report by Furniss, Buckhorn, and Wright dated November 1 and the report of the Joint Committee on Spruce Budworm Control dated November 12. Copies of both of these reports and various memoranda recording the events that led up to them have previously been forwarded. I am now enclosing two copies of the Regional Forester's memorandum of November 12 stating what action he has taken.

These two projects, if undertaken, will tax the available personnel and equipment to the utmost in order to complete them within the time available. I am confident they can be accomplished if all the affected agencies throw their full effort into the work. By completing these two projects, we would be doing all that could reasonably be expected. By undertaking more, we would be jeopardizing the whole program of budworm control.

Although there are no other major control projects planned, I believe you will be interested in the other findings of the 1948 survey. The details will be reported by areas in a forthcoming series of administrative reports. The following brief comments serve only to highlight the general status of the various insect species.

Western Pine Beetle - Low endemic losses throughout the ponderosa pine stands of Oregon and Washington were revealed by the survey of 1948. This survey covered all the remaining plots in virgin stands and a considerable number of plots in cutover stands. In addition a general reconnaissance was made of the more important commercial pine forests.

No direct control of the western pine beetle will be necessary in the spring of 1949. Indirect control through the removal of "high risk" trees is continuing and expanding. For example, a program for the removal of beetle-susceptible ponderosa pine from all parts of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation is being developed along lines recommended by the Bureau.

Mountain Pine Beetle - The exact situation in the white pine stands of Mount Rainier National Park can not be stated with certainty until the survey is completed next spring. A guess is hazarded that from 100 to 200 infested trees should be treated to maintain control on the White River District.

In Crater Lake National Park the control work of the 1947 and 1948 seasons successfully subdued the flare-up of mountain pine beetle in lodgepole pine. No control work is recommended at Crater Lake for the 1948-1949 season.

Aggressive local outbreaks of the mountain pine beetle continue in scattered white pine stands on the western slope of the Cascades, notably on the Snoqualmie and Mt. Baker National Forests. These stands of white pine are mostly of submerchantable size and do not warrant control.

Two outbreaks of the mountain pine beetle are present in the Blue Mountains. One covers about four sections of lodgepole pine of marginal value on the Wallowa National Forest. The other is in a densely stocked stands of pole-sized ponderosa pine on the Whitman National Forest. Neither of these outbreaks warrants control.

Douglas-fir beetle - In westside stands there are no severe outbreaks of the Douglas-fir beetle. The heaviest losses are occurring in the forests of southern Oregon but nowhere is any direct control needed.

On parts of the tussock moth area on the Umatilla National Forest the Douglas-fir beetle is killing a high percentage of the mature trees that were weakened by the feeding of the tussock moth. It is hoped that the bulk of the dead trees can be salvaged. If the salvage program does not progress as anticipated and if the outbreak continues to develop, control should be seriously considered next year.

Sitka spruce beetle - In 1948 a resurvey of the Sitka spruce stands on Kosciusko Island on the Tongass National Forest showed that the outbreak that was in progress in 1946 had subsided. Extensive scouting on the Southern and Petersburg Divisions revealed no other outbreaks of the Sitka spruce beetle.

Tussock moth - The scattered centers of tussock moth infestation on the Umatilla National Forest completely subsided during 1948 due to natural causes.

Hemlock looper - Two small outbreaks of the hemlock looper were discovered on the Olympic Peninsula in the State of Washington during 1948. Apparently both outbreaks began to subside in 1947 and continued to decline in 1948. In the Sekiu River outbreak there was no appreciable killing. Perhaps two to three million board feet were killed in the Clearwater River drainage.